

Message

From: Strauss, Linda [Strauss.Linda@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/20/2019 4:53:13 PM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Altieri, Sonia [Altieri.Sonia@epa.gov]
Subject: timing from Molly Block-- FW: Methylene Chloride - press release

From: Block, Molly
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:50 AM
To: Strauss, Linda <Strauss.Linda@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Methylene Chloride - press release for next week

As soon as we get it back, I believe we're good to go. Alex will just need to make sure she talks to Wheeler about this. They'll both have preferences on timing and rollout.

From: Strauss, Linda
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Methylene Chloride - press release for next week

Molly/Nancy, do you have a sense of your timing on this? I believe it's coming out of OMB next week. Thanks, Linda

From: Strauss, Linda
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 8:10 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>
Subject: Methylene Chloride - press release for next week

Here's the press release on methylene chloride. Alex/Nancy B would like it to go Wed or Thurs -
- depending on timing of other Agency releases (PFAS) AND when this gets out of OMB.

EPA Bans Consumer Sales of Methylene Chloride Paint Removers, Protecting Public

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution of methylene chloride in all paint removers for consumer use. EPA has taken this action because of the acute fatalities that have resulted from exposure to the chemical.

"I am proud to take this positive step along with home improvement retailers to stop the use of this chemical in paint removers intended for consumers," said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

“This rule answers calls from many affected families to effectively remove these products from retail shelves and retail distribution channels, providing protection for the American public,” said Assistant Administrator for Chemical Safety Alexandra Dunn.

In today’s final rule, EPA found risks to consumers to be unreasonable. Acute (short-term) exposures to methylene chloride fumes can rapidly cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, and death due to nervous system depression. People have died after being incapacitated during paint and coating removal with methylene chloride. A variety of effective, less harmful substitutes are readily available for paint removal.

Paint removal products containing methylene chloride will not be able to be sold at any retail establishments that have consumer sales, including e-commerce sales. EPA is also requiring manufacturers, processors, and distributors to notify retailers and others in their supply chains of the prohibitions and to keep basic records. Once published, the final rule and supporting documents will be available in the Federal Register docket at: <https://www.regulations.gov/> and by searching for EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0231.

EPA is also soliciting public input for a future rulemaking that could establish a training, certification and limited access program for methylene chloride for commercial uses. EPA is asking for input on the key elements required for such a program. EPA is requesting public comment for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register of the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR). Additional information and how to provide comments on the ANPR can be found at www.regulations.gov and by searching for EPA-HQ-OPPT-2018-0844[add link]

Learn more about methylene chloride: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-methylene-chloride>

Learn more about the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century

Act: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act>